

**REMARKS**

This paper is responsive to the Requirement for Election dated May 30, 2006. Applicants elect, without traverse, the claims of Group I. Applicants further elect, with traverse, the species of Group Aii, Group Bii and Ci for the purpose of search and examination, and reserve the right to pursue the non-elected subject matter. The traversal is on the ground that the species of Group Bi should be combined with, and examined together with, the species of group Bii. An oligonucleotide as recited in claims 80, 88, and 96 is a type of nucleic acid as recited in claims 79, 87 and 95. Indeed, claim 96 is already dependent on claim 95. Claims 80 and 88 have been amended above to be dependent on claims 79 and 87, respectively. The Examiner has provided no valid reason why oligonucleotides should be examined separately from nucleic acids. Rather, the reason provided is that they have different chemical structures, which is not the case. Reconsideration is requested.

Applicants believe that claims 57-60, 63-68, 71-76, 78-82, 84-90, 92-98, 100, 101, 108, 111-113, 115-120, 123-125, 129-132, 135, 136, 141-144, 149, 151, 152, 154 and 156-172 read on the elected species. Entry of the remarks submitted herein and reconsideration of the claimed subject matter is respectfully requested.

Claims 57-61, 63-69, 71-82, 84-90, 92-98, 100-104, 106-109, 111-113, 115-120, 123-125, 129-132, 135-136, 141-144, 149, 151-152, 154 and 156-162 were pending in this application at the time of the Office Action dated May 30, 2006. As a result of this amendment, claims 57, 65, 73, 78, 80, 86, 88, 94, 108, 111, 115, 120, 123, 132, 135, 136, 141, 142, 143 and 144 have been amended, claims 102-104 and 106-107 have been cancelled and new claims 163-172 have been added. Claims 57-61, 63-69, 71-82, 84-90, 92-98, 100-101, 108-109, 111-113, 115-120, 123-125, 129-132, 135-136, 141-144, 149, 151-152, 154, 156-172 are pending.

Claims 57, 65, 73, 78, 86, 94, 108, 120, 132 and 144 have been amended to remove the word "known" from the claims. Claims 80, 88, 111, 115, 123, 135, 136, 141, 142 and 143 have been amended to correct claim dependency. Claims 163-172 have been added. Support for these claims may be found on page 11, lines 14 through 17 of the specification as filed. No prohibited new matter has been added.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby

authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1283. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3).

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Respectfully submitted,

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